

MINUTES
YORK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Work Session
York Hall
April 12, 2000
7:00 PM

MEMBERS
Robert E. Beil, Jr.
Paul W. Garman
Michael H. Hendricks
Vernard E. Lockwood II
Spencer W. Semmes
Andrew A. Simasek
Ann F. White

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michael Hendricks called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The following members were present: Messrs. Beil, Garman, Hendricks, Semmes, and Mrs. White. Messrs. Lockwood and Simasek were absent. Planning staff attending were Robert A. Baldwin, Timothy C. Cross, Michael S. King and Adam R. Kinsman. County Attorney James Barnett was absent.

RESOLUTION

Mr. Baldwin presented Resolution PC00-06, to support and encourage the development of a planning feasibility study to construct a multi-use path along the Colonial Parkway, with a staff recommendation of approval. Mr. Garman moved to approve, and it was approved by a roll call vote of 5:0 (Messrs. Lockwood and Simasek absent). It reads:

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT
OF A PLANNING FEASIBILITY STUDY TO CONSTRUCT A MULTI-USE
PATH ALONG THE COLONIAL PARKWAY

WHEREAS, the Colonial Parkway traverses the boundaries of the City of Williamsburg, James City County, and the County of York; and

WHEREAS, this scenic corridor is enjoyed by motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians; and

WHEREAS, separate accommodations for bicyclists and pedestrians do not currently exist; and

WHEREAS, the addition of a multi-use path to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians will enhance the corridor and create a safer environment for all users; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service is attempting to secure the necessary funding to initiate a planning feasibility study of adding a multi-use path along the Colonial Parkway; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations of the Planning Commissions from the City of Williamsburg, James City County, and the County of York are desired to demonstrate the combined support of the three localities for the planning/feasibility study;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the York County Planning Commission this the 12th day of April, 2000, that the Commission recommends initiation of a planning feasibility study to consider the construction of a multi-use path along the Colonial Parkway.

ZONING ORDINANCE PROJECT

Mr. Baldwin noted that this was the first of a series of work sessions the Commission has agreed to conduct on the current Zoning Ordinance review. He referred to the copies sent to the Commissioners of the staff's monthly status reports to the County Administrator and informed the members that he will continue to send copies of such reports to them. He reported that the York County Business Association has requested to be kept apprised of the progress of the review, and in that regard Mr. Baldwin suggested that the Commission add a specific time on its agendas for citizens to comment specifically about the Zoning Ordinance. The Commission agreed to this temporary modification to the regular meeting agendas.

Mr. Garman mentioned televising the work sessions related specifically to the Zoning Ordinance review. Mr. Hendricks opined that the informality of a work session does not lend itself to television and could confuse the viewers; he was not in favor of telecasting the work sessions.

Mr. Hendricks reminded the members that the role of the Planning Commission in the revision is to ensure that any and all revisions to the Ordinance are in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan, and not to get buried in details.

There was brief discussion about the format of the revised document, cross-referencing, hyperlinking, etc. Mr. Hendricks stressed his desire to have the ordinance on the web with searches, hyperlinks, and all the tools at the County's disposal to assist citizens. Mr. Baldwin said that is the desire of staff, also, plus making a CD ROM version available for purchase. All of the details are being worked out with the Computer Support Services division, he added.

PRESENTATIONS

Off-street Parking and Loading

Mr. Cross presented a summary of his memorandum to the Commission, dated April 3, 2000, and entitled "Zoning Ordinance Review – Article VI, Off-Street Parking and Loading."

Discussion centered on wasteful use of land for excessive parking and the feasibility of reducing minimum parking standards; deferring the construction of parking spaces until they are needed; and prohibiting parking areas to be used for outdoor storage or sales unless designated for these uses on an approved site plan.

The members complimented the staff on the report of April 3. They had no questions or requests that were not addressed in the report.

Lighting Ordinance

Mr. Michael King summarized his memorandum to the Commission dated April 3, 2000, and entitled "Zoning Ordinance Review – Lighting Ordinance." The members complimented the staff on the memorandum and had no questions or requests that it did not address.

Mr. Garman inquired if housing densities will be studied during the Zoning Ordinance revision process and of the feasibility of holding a separate work session on this subject. Mr. Baldwin said the Comprehensive Plan dictates housing density, that densities are being analyzed by staff, and added that the issue should be visited during the Comprehensive Plan revision process.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair called adjournment at 9:25 p.m.

SUBMITTED: _____/s/_____
Phyllis P. Liscum, Secretary

APPROVED: _____/s/_____
Michael H. Hendricks, Chair

DATE: May 10, 2000